

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03496 210415Z

12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 210235Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 261
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3496

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINR MY
SUBJ: ELECTION OF NEW KING AND DEPUTY

1. COUNCIL OF SULTANS AND GOVERNORS JUNE 19 ELECTED SULTAN OF KELANTAN, YAHYA PUTRA, TO SUCCEED SULTAN OF KEDAH AS YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG (KING) EFFECTIVE SEPT 21. NEWLY-INSTALLED SULTAN OF PAHANG, AHMAD SHAH, WAS ELECTED DEPUTY YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG, REPLACING YAHYA PUTRA. IN MALAYSIA, KINGS ARE ELECTED EVERY FIVE YEARS AND PERFORM LARGELY CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS. KINGSHIP ROTATES AMONG SULTANS AND IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NEWEST SULTAN HAS MOVED QUICKLY INTO LINE OF SUCCESSION AS DEPUTY NORMALLY BECOMES KING NEXT TIME AROUND.

2. COMMENT: KELANTAN SULTAN YAHYA PUTRA IS 57 YEARS OLD AND REPORTEDLY HAS NOT BEEN IN GOOD HEALTH FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE IS GENERALLY WELL-REGARDED, ALTHOUGH KELANTAN ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN CRITICIZED RECENTLY FOR BUILDING LAVISH, MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PALACE IN KOTA BARU. PAHANG SULTAN AHMAD SHAH, INSTALLED ONLY IN MID-MAY, IS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM, IS INTELLIGENT AND ENERGETIC, AND AS YET HAS NO BLOTS ON HIS COPYBOOK. IT IS LIKELY THAT INSTALLATION OF NEW KING, ACCOMPANIED BY GREAT FANFARE AND PAGEANTRY, WILL BE HELD BEFORE END OF YEAR.

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3. PROTOCOL NOTE: FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL DIVISION
HAS ADVISED US THAT NO MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION AND
GOOD WISHES REQUIRED NOW BUT SUCH EXPRESSIONS WILL
BE APPROPRIATE ON SEPT 21 AT TIME OF SWEARING-IN OF NEW
KING AND AT TIME OF INSTALLATION CEREMONY. IN ALL
LIKELIHOOD, HEADS OF STATE WILL BE INVITED TO
LATTER EVENT.
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